

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LYON 00047 011105Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1109
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0047

E.O. 11652 :N/A
TAGS : PINT, FR
SUBJECT : BARRE WARNS OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF COMMON
PROGRAM IN LYON RADIO INTERVIEW

1. IN AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON FEBRUARY 27, BY RADIO
MONTE CARLO DURING ONE OF RAYMOND BARRE'S WEEKLY
CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES IN LYON, THE PRIME MINISTER
WARNED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON PROGRAM OF
THE LEFT WOULD SET BACK FRENCH ECONOMIC EFFORTS BY
THIRTY YEARS.

2. BARRE SAID THAT HIS CAMPAIGNING HAD TAUGHT HIM
THAT THE FRENCH PEOPLE ABOVE ALL WISH TO BE INFORMED
FORTHRIGHTLY, RATHER THAN TO HEAR THE DAILY TUMULTS
OF ELECTORAL PROMISES BY DEMAGOGS. HE REMINDED
LISTENERS THAT THE POLLS REVEALED HIM BETTER PLACED
THAN MESSRS. MITTERAND AND MARCHAIS TO SOLVE ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS. AS A CASE IN POINT HE ANNOUNCED THAT
RESTRUCTURING OF THE MACHINE TOOL SECTOR WOULD
PERMIT SURVIVAL OF THE LYONNAIS FIRM OF LANDIS GENDRON
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(A SUBSIDIARY OF WHICH LITTON HAS BEEN TRYING TO
DISPOSE) AND RESULT IN PRESERVING 270 JOBS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE
WHO ON SUNDAY PREDICTED THAT A MAJORITY VICTORY WOULD
LEAD INEVITABLY TO (SOCIAL) CHAOS, BARRE
REPLIED WITH ASTONISHMENT : "WHY CHAOS AFTER A

DEMOCRATIC VOTE?"

4. IN HIS USUAL STRAIGHTFORWARD PROFESSORIAL
STYLE, BARRE WENT ON TO SAY: "WE HAVE TWO YEARS OF
SERIOUS EFFORT AHEAD OF US, THE ECONOMIC OPTIONS ENVISAGED
BY THE COMMON PROGRAM WOULD FATALLY WRECK THE YEARS OF
PROGRESS. LOOK AT PORTUGAL WHERE TODAY SOARES IS
OBLIGED TO SHIFT INTO AN AUSTERITY PROGRAM."

5. BARRE ALSO USED THE INTERVIEW TO CLARIFY WHY HE
REFUSED THE LEADERSHIP OF ONE OF THE MAJORITY GROUPS.
HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE CAUSED UNNECESSARY
TENSIONS AND THAT HE WOULD RATHER CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT
THE CUUNTRY FOR THE MAJORITY AS A WHOLE, THAN GET
INTO THE KIND OF SQUABBLING CONTEST THAT IS
TYPICAL OF THE OTHER SIDE.
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